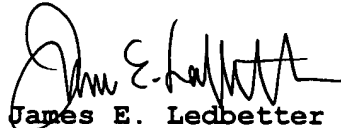


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the claims to correspond to the Article 19 amendment, pursuant to MPEP 1893.01(a)(2), second paragraph. Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: October 6, 2004

JEL/ejw
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L9289.04165
STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
Suite 850
1615 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200